

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 IO-13 T-03

DPW-01 ACDA-19 AID-20 RSR-01 NIC-01 /150 W

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O R 091310 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8467

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL FRANCE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

COMUSMACV

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB

ZNE/ AMCONSUL DANANG 5965

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 SAIGON 3881

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPOR MAR 9

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO
THE EMBASSY AS OF 2000 MAR 9

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SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS

I. ICCS: DEPLOYMENT TO TRI TON.

II. FPJMC: 800 NVA POW'S TRANSFERRED AT QUANG TRI,
3 REQUEST " RETURNEE" STATUS.

III. GVN/ PRG BILATERALS START MARCH 19.

IV. HANOI/ VC PROPAGANDA: HANOI ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF
US/ DRV ECONOMIC COMMISSION DEPRECATES US MINE SWEEPING
EFFORT.

V. GVN CHARGES 6295 COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS.

VI. MR 1: INCIDENTS RISE SLIGHTLY, RETURN TO VILLAGE
PROGRAM PLANNED.

VII. MR 2: COMMUNIST/ GVN POW EXCHANGE REPORTED FIRM FOR
MARCH 10 AND 11; GVN COMPILES LIST OF CIVILIAN PRISONERS.

VIII. MR 3: CG STRESSES GOOD RELATIONS WITH ICCS; ENEMY
ACTIONS CONTINUE IN BIEN HOA.

IX. MR 4: VC/ NVA PRESS GVN IN CHAU DOC, CHOUNG THIEN;
PRICE INDEX UP IN MY THO.

PART I: ICCS

1. ACCORDING TO CANDEL SOURCE, ICCS DEPLOYED TO TRI TON TODAY
WITH FULL CHIP COMPLEMENT. CHIP DELEGATES ALSO MADE FIRST RECCE
OF GIO LINH TODAY AFTER TWO PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS FAILED. FIRST
REPORTS OF GIO LINH VISIT INDICATE NO SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS WITH
THE SITE.

2. WITH FPJMC REGION V (BIEN HOA) INVESTIGATION OF FEB 16
CHINOOK HELICOPTER DOWNING STILL STALLED OVER PROCEDURAL ISSUES.
ICCS INVESTIGATION OF SAME INCIDENT HAS ALSO REACHED AN IMPASSE.
GUARANTEES OF SECURITY FOR ICCS TEAM TO VISIT CRASH SITE HAVE
BEEN RECEIVED FROM SAIGON DRV/ PRG DELEGATIONS BUT NOT FROM
REGION V PRG.

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PART II RPJMC

1. THE GVN IN TODAY'S FPJMC MEETING PROPOSED THAT IN A NEW APPEAL TO THE OPPOSING FORCES TO OBSERVE THE CEASEFIRE THERE BE A CLAUSE EMPOWERING CORPS AND DIVISION COMMANDERS TO DEAL WITH THEIR OPPOSING NUMBERS ON THE OTHER SIDE (ALTHOUGH NOT MENTIONED AT THE PRESS BRIEFING, WE ARE INFORMED THAT PROG COUNTER-PROPOSED THAT UNIT COMMANDERS DOWN TO PLATOON LEVEL BE ALLOWED TO DEAL WITH ONE ANOTHER.)

2. POW RELEASE: GVN SPOKESMAN TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT 800 NVA PW WERE AIRLIFTED FROM PHU QUOC TO CAMP EVANS, MR I. THREE OF PWS ALL LOW-RANKING, REQUESTED TO REMAIN IN RVN AND WERE ALLOWED TO DO SO. REMAINING 797 TRANSFERRED WITHOUT INCIDENT.

3. AN ARVN LOGISTICAL OFFICER HAS BEEN DESIGNATED WITHIN EACH REGION TO PROVIDE LIAISON WITH THE DRV/PRG DELEGATIONS ON MATTERS CONCERNING LOGISTICAL SUPPORT.

PART III GVN/PRG BILATERALS START MARCH 19

1. OFFICIAL VIETNAM PRESS (VP) REPORTED MARCH 9 THAT GVN/PRG BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS CALLED FOR BY PARIS AGREEMENTS WILL START MARCH 19, ALL PROCEDURAL MATTERS HAVING BEEN SETTLED DURING COURSE OF EIGHT PREPARATORY MEETINGS HELD IN PARIS, LAST ON MARCH 8. BILATERALS WILL TAKE PLACE AT LACELLE-STCLOUD, A CHATEAU FROM WHICH PRESS IS STATUTORILY BARRED. VP STATED NAMES OF GVN DELEGATES WOULD BE RELEASED MARCH 10 BUT ENGLISH LANGUAGE SAIGON POST EVENING OF MARCH 9 PRINTED FOLLOWING AND PROBABLY AUTHENTIC LIST: DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER NGUYEN LUU VIEN; NGUYEN XUAN PHONG, FORMER GVN DEPUTY CHIEF NEGOTIATOR AT PARIS PEACE TALKS; NGUYEN PHUONG THIEP, ALSO OF GVN PARIS DELEGATION AND AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE TO AUSTRALIA; NGUYEN TRIU DAN, SPOKESMAN FOR GVN PARIS DELEGATION; NGUYEN NGOC HUY, PROFESSOR AT NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ADMINISTRATION, HEAD OF PROGRESSIVE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT, AND IN 1968-1969 ON GVN PARIS DELEGATION; PHAM HUU GIAO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF GVN INSPECTORATE; NGUYEN QUOC DINH GVN PERMREP TO UNESCO; NGUYEN DOC KHE, FORMER ADVISOR TO GVN PARIS DELEGATION AND PARIS RESIDENT. LISTED AS ADVISORS ARE: FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER TRAN VAN DO; PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL ASSISTANT TRAN VAN CONFIDENTIAL

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AN, AND FORMER INFORMATION MINISTER NGUYEN NGOC ANH.

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O R 091310 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
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COMUSMACV
CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB
ZNE/ AMCONSUL DANANG 5966
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
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PART IV - HANOI/ VC PROPAGANDA

1. HANOI RADIO ANNOUNCED LATE NIGHT MARCH 8 THE FORMATION OF THE " JOINT DRV- UNITED STATES ECONOMIC COMMISSION." THE BROADCAST STATED THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD BEGIN MEETINGS IN PARIS ON MARCH 15. THE DRV DELEGATION IS TO BE LED BY MINISTER OF FINANCE DANG VIET CHAU AND ALSO INCLUDES DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH.

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2. HANOI'S VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY (VNA) CONTRASTED THE PACE OF US MINE REMOVAL WITH WHAT IT CALLED " THE SPEED WITH WHICH THE

DRV HAS RETURNED CAPTURED US MILITARY PERSONNEL." THE MARCH 8 COMMENTARY CLAIMED THAT IN TWO DAYS OF MINE SWEEPING, THE US FLOTILLA HAD MANAGED TO DETONATE " ONLY ONE OUT OF THE THOUSANDS OF MINES" THAT HAD BEEN DROPPED IN DRV WATERS.

IN A SEPARATE COMMENTARY ALSO ON MARCH 8 LIBERATION RADIO CHARGED THAT THE US WAS NOT USING ITS MOST EFFECTIVE EQUIPMENT IN THE MINE SWEEPING OPERATION. IT ASKED RHETORICALLY WHETHER THE USE OF THE PRESENT " SIMPLE AND INEFFECTIVE EQUIPMENT" WAS PART OF THE " UNCHANGED SCHEME" TO DELAY REMOVAL OF THE MINES.

PART V - CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS

1. OFFICIAL VIETNAM PRESS (VNP) CHARGED TODAY THAT FROM THE START OF THE CEASEFIRE UNTIL 0600 MARCH 9 THE COMMUNISTS HAD COMMITTED 6295 VIOLATIONS. ENEMY CASUALTIES ARE 12,858 KIA AND 195 CIA. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES ARE 2399 KIA, 11,327 WIA AND 629 NIA. 243 CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN KILLED, 719 WOUNDED AND 744 ABDUCTED.

PART VI MR :

1. INCIDENTS ROSE SLIGHTLY TO 42. 33 WERE ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF) AMOUNTING TO 1,260 ROUNDS, OVER 1,000 OF WHICH WERE IN AIRBORNE AND 1 ST DIVISION AREAS OF OPERATION. CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY 12 KIA, 67 WIA; ENEMY 14 KIA. THERE WERE NO VNAF SORTIES. NAVAL GUNS FROM TWO SHIPS FIRE 392 ROUNDS ALL SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS. ARTILLERY EXPENDED 5,375 ROUNDS NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS; 6,021 SOUTH.

8. POLOFF IN QUANG NAM REPORTS THAT PROVINCE AUTHORITIES ARE LAY-
ING THE GROUNDWORK FOR " RETURN TO VILLAGE" TO SIX VILLAGES IN THE " ARIZONA TERRITORY" OF SOUTHERN DAI LOC AND NORTHER DUC DUC DISTRICTS. THE PROVINCE CHIEF STATES THAT SECURITY WILL BE PROVIDED BY TWO RF BATTALIONS AND ELEMENTS OF THE ARVN 3 RD DIVISION. POLOFF REPORTS THIS PROJECT IS STILL IN ITS INITIAL STAGES AND THAT NO PEOPLE HAVE YET BEEN MOVED. SIMILAR EFFORTS FOR THE RETURN OF REFUGEES FROM QUE SON DISTRICT ARE UNDERWAY.
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PART VII - MR 2

1. NINE ENEMY INITIATED INCIDENTS REPORTED IN REGION
IN 24-
HOUR PERIOD ENDING MIDNIGHT MAR 8, THIS WAS LO
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DPW-01 ACDA-19 AID-20 NIC-01 RSR-01 /150 W
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O R 091310 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8469
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
CINCPAC
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AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
COMUSMACV
CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB
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AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
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GVN; THEREFORE VC MUST PREPARE TO CONTINUE MILITARY STRUGGLE
IN SOUTH. NVA PW SAID NVA UNDER ORDERS TO WEAR EITHER VC
UNIFORMS OR CIVILIAN CLOTHING.

6. BATTLE BETWEEN ARVN RANGERS AND VC CONTINUES UNABATED FOR
WHAT GVN SAYS IS LAST ENEMY- CONTROLLED HAMLET IN PHU YEN
(MY THANH TAY IN HOA PHONG VILLAGE, HIEU XUONG DISTRICT).
GVN IN BINH DINH SAYS LAI KHANH HAMLET NEAR BONG SON NOW
COMPLETELY UNDER FIREDNLY CONTROL.
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7. IN PHEIKU, THANH AN DISTRICT CHIEF ACKNOWLEDGED TO US REP ON MARCH 7 THAT ENEMY ABF AGAINST HIS TERRITORY LAST SEVERAL DAYS MAY HAVE BEEN IN RESPONSE TO HIS ARTILLERY SUPPORT OF RANGER OPERATIONS IN PLEI YIT. PLEIKU POLOFF COMMENTS THAT RANGERS HAVE BEEN PATROLING AGGRESSIVELY BUT AT SAME TIME THERE IS GROWING EVIDENCE THAT ALL MILITARY CONTACTS IN PROVINCE ARE BEING REPORTED AS ENEMY- INITIATED. HE ADDS THAT THESE ARTY DUELS- WHICH ESSENTIALLY ARE TAKING PLACE ALONG QL 19 BETWEEN PLEIKU AND DUC CO- ARE LIKELY AT LEAST TO HAVE IMPRESSED ICCS POINT- OF- ENTRY TEAM AT DUC CO WITH INTENSITY OF ACTIVITY IN AREA.

8. QUI NHON POLOFF REPORTS COMMUNIST/ GVN POW EXCHANGE FIRM FOR MARCH 10 AND 11 IN IMMEDIATE VICINITY BONG SON TOWN, HOAI NHON DISTRICT, BINH DINH. GVN WILL RELEASE 1000 POW' S AND COMMUNISTS 400. US AND GVN OFFICERS FROM PHU CAT FPJMC AND FIVE EACH DRV AND PRG MEMBERS FROM CENTRAL FPJMC IN SAIGON ARE TO SUPERVISE. PHU CAT ICCS TEAM MAY WITNESS PROCEEDINGS, BUT THIS NOT YET CERTAIN.

9. TRUONG VAN THANH, AN INSPECTOR FROM DIRECTORATE OF CORRECTIONS, TOLD QUI NHON POLOFF ON MARCH 8 THAT HE WAS ON AN URGENT MISSION TO MR' S 1 AND 2 TO COLLECT LISTS OF CATEGORY C DETAINEES HELD BY GVN IN EACH PROVINCE. HE SAID ONCE POW' S EXCHANGED WITH COMMUNISTS, GVN INTENDS TO RELEASE TO PRG ALL OF THE 20,000 CATEGORY C DETAINEES HELD NATIONWIDE IN EXCHANGE FOR GVN CIVILIAN HELD BY COMMUNISTS. GVN DOES NOT PLAN TO RELEASE DETAINEES IN CATEGORIES A OR B. THANH SAID HIS ORDERS WERE TO COMPLETE COLLECTION OF LISTS AND RETURN TO SAIGON BY MARCH 10. GVN WILL USE LISTS IN FPJMC NEGOTIATIONS.

10. ARVN ESCAPEE FROM VC IN TAM QUAN DISTRICT, BINH DINH, REPORTED TO TAM QUAN SUB- SECTOR OFFICERS ON FEB 28 THAT, AT SOME TIME DURING FEBRUARY, VC MOVED 2000 POW' S (ALL PRESUMABLY GVN) FROM AREA IN WESTERN HOAI IN DISTRICT TO SHELTERS IN AN LAO VALLEY. VC WERE COMPILING LIST OF POW' S, PRESUMABLY TO PREPARE FOR EXCHANGE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GVN.

PART VIII- MR 3

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1. III CORPS CG LTG NGUYEN VAN MINH HAS REITERATED HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS SUBORDINATE PROVINCE CHIEFS TO TREAT ICCS MEMBERS WITH THE UTMOST COURTESY. MINH HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE CONSIDERS RELATIONS WITH THIS INTERNATIONAL BODY ESSENTIAL TO HIS GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVES.
2. THE ICCS TELEPHONE LINES IN XUAN LOC WHICH WERE DISCONNECTED ON MARCH 2 HAVE NOT BEEN RECONNECTED. LONG KHANH PROVINCE CHIEF COL. TRUONG EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CUT THE PHONE LINES TO THE ICCS BY THE MR 3 ARVN COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE AND THAT THE MATTER WAS NOT ONE WHICH HE HAD ANY AUTHORITY TO ALTER. WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED THAT THE MAYOR OF VUNG TAU HAS YANKED OUT ALL OF THE ICCS TELEPHONE LINES AT THE PALACE HOTEL, WHERE THE VUNG TAU ICCS TEAM IS STAYING.
3. CAPTAIN PATTEN, THE SENIOR CANADIAN OFFICER ON THE XUAN LOC TEAM, VISITED SAIGON ON MARCH 5 AND COMMENTED TO OUR TDY FSO IN XUAN LOC THAT, BASED ON DISCUSSIONS WITH FELLOW CANADIANS THERE, HE BELIEVES THAT CANADA WILL WITHDRAW HER ICCS CONTINGENT AFTER SIXTY DAYS. HE AND OTHER CANADIAN OFFICERS ARE DISCOURAGED, HE SAID, BY THE FAILURE OF THE FPJMC AND THE ICCS TO MAKE ANY SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS. THE CANADIANS ARE PARTICULARLY DISILLUSIONED BY THE REFUSAL OF THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS TO AGREE TO A JOINT INVESTIGATION OF THE ALLEGATIONS THAT NORTH VIET- NAM INSTALLED SAM SITES AT KHE SANH.
4. A DEMOCRACY PARTY CHAPTER INAUGURATION THIS WEEK IN HAO LOI VILLAGE, CHAU THANH DISTRICT, BINH DUONG PROVINCE WAS FOLLOWED BY THE DISTRIBUTION OF OVERDUE WAR VICTIMS' BENEFITS.
5. BINH DUONG PROVINCE AUTHORITIES REPORT THAT THE MICHELIN RUBBERIPLANTATION WILL SOON RESUME OPERATIONS.
6. SOME NEW VC/ NVA PROPAGANDA THEMES HAVE BEEN HEARD IN TAY NINH PROVINCE. A VC UNIT TOLD FARMERS WORKING NEAR ITS LOCATION THAT IF THERE WAS NO ELECTION, OR IF THE VC LOST IN AN ELECTION, THE WAR WOULD CONTINUE. THE VC/ NVA HAVE ATTEMPTED TO CONNECT THE PRESENCE OF THEIR WEAPONS EXCHANGE POINT AT XA MAT AND THEIR LONG TERM MILITARY CONTROL OF WAR ZONE C IN NORTHERN TAY NINH WITH A RECENT COURTESY CALL BY THE ICCS. VC CADRE ARE TELLING THE PEOPLE THAT THE ICCS VISITED TAY
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NINH TO OFFICIALLY DIVIDE THE PROVINCE. THE REAL PURPOSE OF THE WEAPONS EXCHANGE POINT AT XA MAT IS PERVERTED IN THIS VERSION TO IMPLY INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED VC/ NVA SOVEREIGNTY OVER WAR ZONE C.

7. THE BINH DUONG PROVINCE CHIEF HOSTED A LUNCHEON THURSDAY
FOR THE AN LOC AND BEN CAT ICCS MEMBERS NOW STATIONED IN THE PROVINCES.

8. ALTHOUGH THE BEN CAT ICCS TEAM HAS BEEN REASONABLY ACTIVE
UNDER HUNGARIAN LEADERSHIP, THE HUNGARIANS AND THE POLES
ASSIGNED TO THE AN LOC TEAM HAVE REFUSED TO MOVE OUT TO LAM
SON. AS REPORTED BY AN INDONESIAN TEAM MEMBER, THE POLISH-
HUNGARIAN POSITION IS THAT THE TEAM SHOULD LIVE IN AN LOC

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IT SELF, AND THEY WILL NOT JOIN THE TEAM UNTIL IT MOVES TO THAT LOCATION.

9. ENEMY ACTIVITY CONTINUES IN BIEN HOA PROVINCE. ON MARCH 7 AN ESTIMATED VC PLATOON ATTACKED AN RF COMPANY ONLY 3 KM FROM THE LONG THANH DISTRICT TOWN LOSING ONE KIA. ONLY FOUR OF LONG THANH'S 24 HAMLETS ARE CURRENTLY FREE FROM SOME FORM OF ENEMY MILITARY, ECONOMIC, OR POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

PART IX - MR -4
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1. GVN CONTROL IS VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED FROM THE WESTERN HALF OF GIAI MOUNTAIN, THE WESTERNMOST OF THE SEVEN MOUNTAINS IN TRI TON DISTRICT, CHAU DO. THIS GIVES VC THE POTENTIAL TO ESTABLISH A BASE AREA IN THE RECENTLY DESIGNATED CHAU HA VC PROVINCE (WHICH INCLUDES PARTS OF GVN CHAU DOC AND KIEN GIANG PROVINCES). CONGEN REPORTS GVN SOURCES SPECULATE VC MAY EVEN TRY TO ESTABLISH PROVINCE CAPITAL IN AREA. RVNAF CONTINUES TO PERATE, BUT HAS NOT STATIC BASES IN AREA. VC/ NVA HOLD THE HIGH GROUND AND HAVE ARTILLERY IN PLACE. SEVERAL ATTEMPTS BY RVNAF TO REGAIN LOST OUTPOSTS HAVE BEEN BEATEN OFF BY HEAVY VC/ NVA ARTILLERY FIRE. GVN RECOVERY ATTEMPTS ARE CONTINUING AND ICCS SUB- REGIONAL TEAM COULD FIND ITSELF ARRIVING IN TIME FOR A MAJOR BATTLE.

2. VC/ NVA ARE ALSO CONTINUING HEAVY PRESSURE IN SOUTHERN CHOUNG THIEN DISTRICTS IN LONG MY AND KIEN THIEN. CONGEN ESTIMATES FOUR ENEMY REGIMENTS ARE CONCENTRATED IN THE AREA AND RVNAF OUTPOSTS, WHILE STILL HELD STRONGLY AND RESISTING ARE VIRTUALLY ISOLATED. CONGEN REPORTS RELIABLE SOURCES BELIEVE VC/ NVA PRESENTLY HAVE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF HALF OF PROVINCE. SOUTHERN CHOUNG THIEN IS SITE OF MAJOR LOC CROSSROADS FOR VC/ NVA.

3. MR 4 COMMANDER, GENERAL NGHI MET WITH PROVINCE CHIEFS AND DIV COMMANDERS ON MARCH 8 TO REVIEW STATE OF EVENTS IN THE DELTA. CONGEN REPORTS THAT WHILE NGHI PLANS TO CONTINUE TO REACT STRONGLY TO VC ATTACKS, HE DID RESTRICT THE USE OF ARTILLERY AND AIR SUPPORT. GEN NGHI ALSO INSTRUCTED THE SUBORDINATE COMMANDERS TO REPORT VC/ NVA CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS DAILY TO THE CHIEF OF THE GVN DEL TO THE FPJMC. HE FURTHER ORDERED THAT THE ICCS AND FPJMC TEAMS BE PROTECTED FROM INCIDENTS ARISING FROM DEMONSTRATIONS.

4. NATIONAL POLICE ARE ARRESTING THREE TO FIVE TIMES THE USUAL NUMBER OF DRAFT DODGERS AND DESERTERS IN MR 4. A TOTAL OF 836 DRAFT DODGERS. DURING THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 4 TO 8,

THEY ARRESTED TOTAL OF 836 DRAFT DODGERS AND 569 DESERTERS.

5. THE PRICE INDEX IN MY THO, CAPITAL OF DINH TUONG ROSE
SUBSTANTIALLY FROM 295 TO 349 BETWEEN JAN 15 AND MARCH 1.
THIS WAS GREATER THAN THE INCREASE FOR THE PRECEDING TEN
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MONTHS. PRICES OF A WIDE RANGE OF GOODS ROSE, BUT PORK
BELLIES HAD THE GREATEST IMPACT ON THE INDEX. IN RESPONSE
TO WIDELY CIRCULATED RUMORS, OF AN IMMINENT PRICE RISE,
HOUSEWIVES IN SA DEC, VINH LONG AND VINH BINH HAVE STARTED
HOARDING KEROSENE. VIS IS UNDERTAKING A THUS FAR UNSUCCESSFUL
EFFORT TO REASSURE CONSUMERS. FIGHTS HAVE REPORTEDLY OCCURED
IN KIEN PHONG BETWEEN PERSONS VYING TO BUY KEROSENE AT THE
OFFICIAL PRICE. THE LARGE PURCHASES ARE CAUSING SHORTAGES
AND CREATING A BLACK MARKET IN KEROSENE DESPITE NORMAL
SHIPMENTS TO THE AREA. FOUR IMPORTANT RICE MERCHANTS IN
RACH GIA(IENGIANG) HAVE COMPLAINED THAT FARMERS ARE
HOLDING BACK RICE STOCKS IN ANTICIPATION OF SUBSTANTIAL 1973
PRICE INCREASES.
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 971125
Subject: CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPOR MAR 9
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, CA, RO, RP, TH, VM
To: BANGKOK
BUDAPEST
CINCPAC
EA
JAKARTA
MANILA
OTTAWA

PHNOM PENH
SECSTATE WASHDC

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